

SKETCHES

The officers of the 1953 Ruckman Reunion take pleasure in presenting to you "Ruckman Sketches", a brief history of the David L. Ruckman family and some of the descendants. It was written in the hope that it might, at least in some small way, help us have a better knowledge and appreciation of our common ancestry, and perhaps lead to gathering for a more extensive history. We wish to thank those who helped, in one way or another, to make this SKETCHING / HAPPY REUNION TO ALL OF YOU!

The officers of the Ruckman Reunion (1953)



BUCKMAN SKETCHES

THE REUNION

June, 1953

1

The first Buckman Reunion was held Sunday, July 3, 1910. The event was to commemorate the place where, one hundred years earlier, the David Little Buckman family moved to Pocahontas County as that is the west Virginia. They came from Highland County, Virginia.

The reunion was at J. R. Buckman's (now C. B. Goo's) near Mill Point, and quite near the log house into which David Little Buckman and his wife Fricilla moved when they came in 1810. At the time of the first reunion the house was standing and still used as a dwelling. The age of the house was not less than other than that it was already well when the Buckmans moved to the estate from a family by the name of Cooper. Therefore, it was at least a hundred or more years old at the time of the reunion.

The love of history, Buckman reunion apparently began with Miss Maggie Buckman, and was brought to a reality by her, J. R. Buckman, and other interested persons. There were ninety-two people at this first reunion. The weather was excellent for the outdoor picnic, and for taking pictures. Those present decided it should become an annual affair, and to have it near the first of July each year. This has been carried out rather faithfully except during World War II. The meetings have been as follows:

1. 1910 - at J. R. Buckman's home, Mill Point, W. Va.
2. 1911 - at B. L. Buckman's home, " " " "
3. 1912 - at Mrs. Hannah Buckman's home, Cliftonville, W. Va.
4. 1913 - at W. B. Buckman's home, Mill Point, W. Va.
5. 1914 - at Rev. A. C. Buckman's home, ~~Levin~~ S. Va.
6. 1915 - white sulphur spring on the E. J. Bush property grounds
7. 1916 - Deep Mountain Battle Field (One of the largest groups - 194)
8. 1917 - Deep Mountain Battle Field State Park
9. 1918 - Deep Mountain Battle Field State Park
10. 1919 - Deep Mountain - (Voted at the previous meeting place)
11. 1920 - Deep Mountain - (June - due to possible rain, etc.)
12. 1921 - (Reunion not held in 1921; 1924; 1925; 1926; 1927; 1928)
13. 1929 - Deep Mountain Battle Field State Park
14. 1930 - " " " "
15. 1931 - " " " "
16. 1932 - " " " "
17. 1933 - " " " "
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34. 1950 - " " " "
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36. 1952 - " " " "
37. 1953 - " " " "

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THE MEMORIAM

Must be a dream that they have gone away,
Those who brought us hope, comfort, and cheer;
But shaken, for the torch they have left,
We too must hold high without waver nor fear.

1. Jack Neff - about 1933
2. Otto W. Buckman - July 7, 1937
3. Miss Julia Ann Buckman - April 16, 1938 (Age 97 years)
4. Robert Slaven - November 24, 1938
5. Downer B. Hogg - March 26, 1939
6. J. Henry Overholt - about 1941
7. Mrs Hannah V. Buckman - June 3, 1943
8. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Moore - June 19, 1944
9. Mrs. Mary (Mollie) L. Buckman - August 8, 1944
10. Elba Gallison - January 6, 1946
11. Miss Maggie Buckman - February 26, 1946
12. Richard Gallison - May 19, 1946
13. James Henick Buckman - November 4, 1947
14. Mrs. Elsie Jane Buckman - April 16, 1949
15. Mrs. Everette Buckman - January 18, 1950
16. J. F. Anderson - May 19, 1950
17. Miss Ollie Neff - August __, 1950
18. Mrs. Lea V. Buckman - December 9, 1950
19. Mrs. Ruth Buckman Smith - April 20, 1951
20. David Early Buckman - July 20, 1951
21. A. M. Smith - March 31, 1952
22. Gary Krodell - May __, 1952 (age 4 years)

Bernard Steven, of Peachtree County, and their children were: James; Elizabeth (Mrs. John F. Irvine); Ann; and David V. Rushman. David Olenberg* Rushman was a son of this Col. David V. Rushman. John and Mary went to Ohio, and James settled in Illinois. One sister married John Owen, and she was the mother of Mrs. Samuel Harper, and Mrs. Martha Harper, both of Peachtree County.)

(It should be remembered that quite likely there were brothers (and sisters) of some earlier Rushmans in the United States, who probably have descendants of whom we have no record. Also there could have been other Rushman immigrants to the United States besides Samuel Rushman.)

(Many of the dates given are for reference only, and may be ignored otherwise)

DAVID L. RUSHMAN (1822-1877) was born on Oak Creek March 6, 1822. On June 1840, he married Priscilla (1822-1877) of Highland County. "She was a very superior person in all the relations of life." They went to Peachtree County in 1842, to what is now known as the Morven Chapel Community near Mill Point. However, not all of their children were born in Highland County, according to the date of their births. David L. Rushman is described as a tall and wiry person, who was quick and nervous in his movements, and usually rode in a rapid trot. As Constable of the Levels District he usually got what he went after, as he always made business. He died May 3, 1877.

David L. Rushman, his wife Priscilla, and his son Samuel Rushman are buried in the Mill Cemetery, near Hillsboro and Mill Point. It is regrettable that the Rushman Burial organization did not carry out the plans to place markers at their graves. As the ones those were living who knew more definitely where the graves are located.

The SONS AND DAUGHTERS (underlined names) of DAVID L. and PRISCILLA RUSHMAN were:

1. Charles Rushman (1823-1872), the eldest son, was a scholar, teacher, and minister. He married (1841) Rachel Griffin, and they had a daughter and son named Jull. Ann and Benjamin. Two sons, Jonathan and Morgan, died in childhood. Charles moved to Ohio, and old letters from there show that he did not approve of the secession of the Southern States, or his brothers' part and sacrifices in the Civil War. In the latter days of his life he became a strenuous leveller. There are no living descendants of his now.
2. Samuel Rushman (1823-1877), the second son, died at the age of 15 years.
3. John Rushman (1824-1899), the third son, was eight years old when the family moved to Peachtree County. Col. John W. Rushman married (1846) Margaret Ann Moore (1824-1897) and they lived on a part of the old homestead near the family home. Their first child, a daughter, died in infancy. Their son, Mathew Rushman (1855-1911) married (1881) Mary (Mollie) Willie Rogers (1863-1941), and their children are Frederick D., and Edna (Mrs. L. S. McClure).

Other historical dates of the periods

- 1840-1841 - Stephen Howell lived in a cave near Rushman home site.
- 1842 - John Isbell, first permanent settler in Peachtree, settled in the Levels.
- 1843 - Ardis was killed not far distant from the Rushman home site, on the
- 1844 - Indian raid in but in now Peachtree County.
- 1845 - Battle of Deep Mountain
- 1846 - Church dedicated.
- 1847 - West Virginia - State in 1863

Let us buy your wool and skin

4. Jesse Ruckman (1825-1864), the fourth son, lived on the old homestead. His first married (1852) Caroline Bruffay of near Green Bank. They had one son, William Wallace Ruckman (1853-1910), who married (1879) Elizabeth Patton. Wallace Ruckman had three children: Mary Margaret (Maggie, 1880-1945); David Early (1882-1951); and Harry (Mrs. A. E. Boblett). Jesse W. Ruckman's second wife (1855) was Caroline August, also (Mrs. A. E. Boblett). Jesse W. Ruckman's children were: Willard Williams (1857-1914); Nancy Priscilla of near Green Bank. Their children were: Willard Williams (1857-1914); and Otha Watts Ruckman (Mrs. Winfield Slaven, 1859-1930); James Rankin (1861-1947); and Otha Watts Ruckman (1864-1937). All four members of this last family were married and have descendants. Jesse W. Ruckman was a Confederate soldier. He was captured near Keady in 1864, and sent to Fort Delaware. Later he was sent to Richmond for exchange, but died before leaving there. Later, his body was brought back and buried in the Ruckman Cemetery.

5. Clarence Ruckman (1827-1876) married (1857) Peter M. Overholt. Their sons were Henry and Rollin Overholt. Three other children died while young.

6. Mary Ruckman (1829-1901) married (1862) Jacob F. Cackley. No children were born to this union.

7. Otha Wade Ruckman (1831-1921) was the fifth son of David L., and a twin to Catherine. He first married (1858) Martha McClung. Their sons and daughters (names with asterisk) were: * Otha David Ruckman (1859-1927), who married Hannah Hoff, and they lived and reared their family at Clintonville, W. Va. * Ella (Mrs. Levi Haugh) and one of her daughters, Mattie Haugh, married William Clower; * Mary (Mrs. Jack Hoff); and * Rev. Andrew C. Ruckman, who lives at Leivasy, W. Va.

Otha Wade Ruckman's second marriage (1875) was to Phoebe Lincoln Hagan. His third (1881) wife was Mary Frances Teyman; and his fourth (1904) wife was Rachel Friel.

8. Catherine Wade Ruckman (1831-1870) and Otha were twins. She married (1853) Peter McNeil and their sons and daughters (names with asterisk) were: * Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. John S. Moore, 1855-1944); * Emma D. (Mrs. Jacob Harper), who is the only living member of this family, now being 96 years old; * Virginia Priscilla, a twin to Emma (Kamaline), died then small; * David; * Fries; * Matthew; and * Fannie (Mrs. Floyd Rogers). There are several descendants from various members of this family.

9. David Bird Ruckman (1839-1863) seems to have been a favorite son and brother. He was a Confederate soldier, and was mortally wounded in the Battle of Morristown, Tenn. He was buried somewhere in that area.

Only in legend and in fancy can we again catch a glimpse of the David L. Ruckman family. When they were all at home there must have been "a heap of livin'" in the old house — the big house celled inside with pine lumber, and with its massive fireplaces and chimneys. The huge outside doors that could be barred against any intruder, and the tiny upstairs windows were reminiscent of days when Indian raids were possible. (At that time there was a chimney at each end of the house, and the addition to the house had not been built.) It is said that a date cut into a stone of a chimney was evidence that the house was built sometime before 1800.

There was always the making of maple sugar in the early spring, at the sugar camp farther up the valley near where W. C. Ruckman now lives. In spite of pleasant memories of "stirring off" warm sugar in their childhood days, it was an important task as it

was the only source of their sugar supply for all purposes. They must have been a

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may family with the responsibilities of a large estate. There were sheep to furnish wool for their homestead clothes; many horses for work, transportation, and possibly for trading and selling; and herds of cattle which, besides furnishing milk, were the chief source of income.

We do not know much about their schooling but they seemed to have been educated, for their time. The older ones probably started to school in Highland County. After coming to Perontas they may have attended the old schoolhouse said to have stood on the hill in the vicinity of McNeel's barn. Apparently after John H. Ruckman came, the log schoolhouse was built near the site of the Ruckman Cemetery. Before it was burned during the Civil War, some of the younger members of the Ruckman family probably attended school there, and the family undoubtedly attended church services in the same building. Some of the boys could have gone to school at Green Bank as it is known that some of John H. Ruckman's sons went there. Also, it should be remembered that there was a school at Hillsboro, and that the Little Levels Academy was established there in 1822.

The members of the David L. Ruckman family surely had their fun, their hopes, ambitions, disappointments, fears; and yes, at the time of the Civil War, there must have been many heartaches. As is ever true these people have left, to each succeeding generation, the privilege and responsibility of living in this great country of ours -- the new country to which, in 1682, Samuel Ruckman came seeking a home.

THE END

In addition to the sources of information shown on page one, there have been some persons whose names were written by Maggie Ruckman, J. R. Ruckman, and Mrs. Alonzo Ruckman. Also, some oral information was gotten from various persons.

(It should have been made on page one that Otha W. Ruckman was quite active in promoting the first Ruckman Hour.)

- 1 Elizabeth Ruckman married a Mr Givens and went west.
- 2 Sophia Ruckman married John Gunn and was the mother of the late Mrs Margaret Harper of Knapp Creek the late George Gieger of Huntsville was a grandson of John & Sophia Gunn.
- 3 Mary Ruckman married James Clawen and went to Ohio and left 1 child.
- 4 Hannah Ruckman married Timothy Holcomb and settled on Stamping Creek and then went west. She had one daughter Mrs Susan Reynolds and a number of other children.

David and Susanna Ruckman who came from New Jersey to what is now Highland county Va. Had 10 children 6 boys and 4 girls 2 sons died in infancy David & Johnath. They raised 4 sons & 4 daughters namely Samuel who lived in Highland and married Nancy Hartman & Margaret Slaven daughter of John Slaven head of Greenbrier. Samuel Ruckman was the father of John St. Nancy Wade, Mary Gurn (by first wife) David W. James, Alice, Elizabeth Covine.

2 John Ruckman went to Ohio when a young man married there and had a son Abiga.

3 James Ruckman went to Ill. and married Margaret Bonnet - had a son James and a daughter.

4 David Little Ruckman married Priscilla Wade - came from Highland is the fore father of all the Ruckmans in the Little Levels dia

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Samuel died, aged fifteen years. The third son was Colonel John Wade Ruckman. His wife was Margaret Ann Moore. Their son Mathew married Margaret Hogsett, who lives at the homestead with her son Fred.

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David, Jr., the youngest son, was a Confederate soldier and fell mortally wounded at Morristown, Tennessee.

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The rain during the early morning
 of June 19th, didn't discourage the
 descendants of Jacob and Christina
 Cleek and their friends to gather at
 the picnic grounds at Star Chapel
 for the annual reunion of the Cleek
 Clan. By 11 o'clock five hundred
 persons had gathered to spend the
 day together and help make the
 Cleek Reunion an enjoyable gather-
 ing.—Bath County Enterprise.

The regular monthly meeting of
 the Board of Edray District was held
 at the office of the County Superin-
 tendent on last Thursday night. All
 the members, T. D. Moore, Porter
 Keilison and Calvin W. Price were
 present. Only matters of routine
 came up for consideration. The next
 meeting will be held on Tuesday,
 July 5.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Nichols and
 baby and Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Wag-
 ner of Mt. Carmel, Pa. have returned
 to their homes after spending a few
 days the guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. R.
 Nichols of Cass.

NOTICE

To The Creditors and Beneficiaries of
 The Estate of Al Schler, In
 Assignment.

All persons having claims against
 the Estate of Al Schler, under deed
 of assignment, whether due or not,
 are notified to exhibit the same, with
 the voucher thereof, legally verified,
 to the undersigned at his office in the
 town of Marlinton, Pocahontas Coun-
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THE RUCKMANS

The Ruckman family will hold a reunion at the home of James Renick Ruckman at the old homestead, near Millpoint, on Sunday, July 3, 1932. This is eminently fit and proper, for their ancestor, David Little Ruckman, came to the plantation just one hundred years ago this year.

The family trace their descent from one Samuel Ruckman, a native of England, born in 1643. He lived awhile in northeast Wales. He brought his family to Long Island, New York, in 1382. That same year he had a son, Thomas, born on Long Island. The next link in the ancestral chain is James, son of Thomas, born in New Jersey, in 1716. Then comes David, son of James, born in New Jersey in 1747.

This David was the progenitor of the Ruckman relationship in Highland and Pocahontas counties. He came to what is now southeast Highland about 1784, settling in Back Creek valley, near Bethel Church, Mill Gap postoffice. His wife was Susanna Little, of New Jersey. She came to Pocahontas one hundred years ago with her son, David, and died about 1845, at an advanced age. I feel sure that my father knew her, as he was fifteen years old when she died. Anyway he records the following interesting recollection of her.

"Mrs. Ruckman was a woman of high aspirations and longed for something far better than

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Gap postoffice. His wife was Susanna Little, of New Jersey. She came to Pocahontas one hundred years ago with her son, David, and died about 1845, at an advanced age. I feel sure that my father knew her, as he was fifteen years old when she died. Anyway he records the following interesting recollection of her.

"Mrs. Ruckman was a woman of high aspirations and longed for something far better than she could get in New Jersey. Marvelous accounts seemed to have been reported about the beauty, wealth and happiness of southern homes. That in Virginia people lived in houses with earthen floors, discarding the use of wood. She seemed to have gathered from this that floors were of mosaic work, such as princes have about their houses in the old country. Upon reaching the place of destination, and finding what earthen floors meant on the Virginia frontier, her disappointment was so intense that she wished to return at once; but circumstances were such that this was impossible. So the situation was accepted, went to work, and a home was reared out of the Virginia forest."

David and Susannah were the parents of four sons and four daughters: Samuel, John, James and David Little; Elizabeth, Sophia, Mary and Hannah.

Samuel's first wife was Nancy Hartman, and his second Margaret Biaven, both of Pocahontas County.

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Private Distribution

The business of a government money distribution of monuments is in violation of an announcement at the Charleston national postoffice.

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